

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-9 and 11 are pending in the present application. Claims 7-9 and 11 are amended and Claims 1-6 and 10 are canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lum (U.S. Patent No. 5,959,462), and Claims 7-9 and 11 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

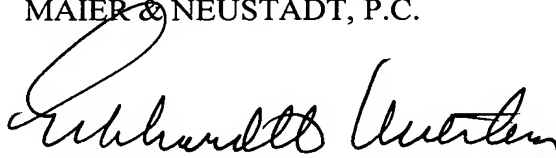
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, rejected Claims 1-6 and 10 have been canceled and dependent Claims 7-9 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form including the features of their base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. No new matter has been added.

Because the present amendment reduces the number of issues for appeal and raises no new issues, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116 is believed to be in order and it is therefore respectfully requested.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

EHK/RFF/ys
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